

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A CMOS image sensor, comprising:

pixel sensors arranged in the form of a two-dimensional array, each pixel sensor comprising a photodiode at a signal detection node and a pair of pass transistors, which passes a photodiode reset signal to a gate of a transistor that resets said photodiode, only when said pixel sensor is selected;

means, disposed in each pixel sensor, for obtaining a signal whose reset noise is reduced and that corresponds to the absolute value of the amount of incident light; and

means for outputting said signal in a block-scanning fashion

wherein said photodiode reset signal is given as the logical AND of a column block selection signal and a pixel reset signal.

- 2.-3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) A CMOS image sensor, comprising:

pixel sensors arranged in a two-dimensional array, each pixel sensor comprising floating diffusion at a signal detection mode and a pair of pass transistors, which passes a transfer signal to a gate of a transistor that transfers a signal charge of a photodiode, only when said pixel sensor is selected;

means, disposed in each pixel sensor, for obtaining a signal whose rest noise is reduces and that corresponds to the absolute value of the amount of incident light; and

means for outputting said signal in a block-scanning fashion;

wherein said transfer signal is given as the logical AND of a column block selection signal and a pixel transfer signal.

- 5-7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) A CMOS image sensor comprising:
a pixel sensor according to claim 1; and
means for selectively connecting the output of the pixel sensor to a circuit for reading one row of block.

9. (Original) A CMOS image sensor comprising:
a pixel sensor according to claim 4; and
means for selectively connecting the output of the pixel sensor to a circuit for reading one row of block.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Original) A camera that automatically controls brightness, comprising:
a CMOS image sensor according to claim 1;
means for estimating the average brightness over an entire screen of said CMOS image sensor from brightness detected for a several blocks in a central area and in a peripheral area of the screen; and
a programmable gain amplifier having a gain that is automatically controlled in accordance with the estimated brightness.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) A camera that automatically controls brightness, comprising:
a CMOS image sensor according to claim 4;
means for estimating the average brightness over an entire screen of said CMOS image sensor from brightness detected for a several blocks in a central area and in a peripheral area of the screen; and
a programmable gain amplifier having a gain that is automatically controlled in accordance with the estimated brightness.

14.-15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) A camera that automatically controls brightness, comprising:

a CMOS image sensor according to claim 8;

means for estimating the average brightness over an entire screen of said CMOS image sensor from brightness detected for a several blocks in a central area and in a peripheral area of the screen; and

a programmable gain amplifier having a gain that is automatically controlled in accordance with the estimated brightness.

17. (Original) A monitor camera, comprising:

a CMOS image sensor according to claim 1;

means for detecting whether there is a substantial change in an image by reading several blocks in a central area and in a peripheral area of an image screen of said CMOS image sensor; and

means for continuously taking an image over the entire screen when a substantial change is detected.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) A monitor camera, comprising:

a CMOS image sensor according to claim 4;

means for detecting whether there is a substantial change in an image by reading several blocks in a central area and in a peripheral area of an image screen of said CMOS image sensor; and

means for continuously taking an image over the entire screen when a substantial change is detected.

20.-22. (Canceled)

23. (Original) An autofocus camera, comprising:

a CMOS image sensor according to claim 1;
means for adjusting focus by reading several blocks in a central area of an
image screen of said CMOS image sensor; and
means for taking an image over the entire screen after completion of the focus
adjustment.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) An autofocus camera, comprising:
a CMOS image sensor according to claim 4;
means for adjusting focus by reading several blocks in a central area of an
image screen of said CMOS image sensor; and
means for taking an image over the entire screen after completion of the focus
adjustment.

26.-27 (Canceled)

28. (Original) An autofocus camera, comprising:
a CMOS image sensor according to claim 8;
means for adjusting focus by reading several blocks in a central area of an
image screen of said CMOS image sensor; and
means for taking an image over the entire screen after completion of the focus
adjustment.